GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:988
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
RECOMMENDATIONS OF IEAG ON POLIO DISEASE
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Expert Advisory Group which met in New Delhi recently, have expressed optimism about India's chance to get rid of Polio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the Expert Group in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes Sir,

(b) The meeting of the India Expert Advisory Group on polio (IEAG) was held on 19-20th December, 2007 to review the polio situation. The observations of IEAG are as under:

Due to accelerated immunization rounds & use of monovalent oral polio vaccine 1(mOPV1) in 2007, wild polio virus type 1 (WPV1) transmission is at low level.

The population immunity against WPV1 among children in India is high.

The 'core' districts of western UP (in Moradabad, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Aligarh and Bareilly sub-divisions) have not reported WPV1 since November 2006.

Recommendations −

The principal objective of activities in the first half of 2008 should be interruption of WPV1 transmission in the low transmission season, while maintaining good control of wild polio virus type 3 (WPV3).

Five immunization rounds in the first half of 2008 and three rounds in the second half as follows-

Two rounds of National Immunization Day(NID) in January and February '08, using mOPV1 in UP, Bihar, Greater Mumbai, Delhi, and other high risk areas, and tOPV in all other areas.

Three rounds of Sub National Immunization round(SNIDs) in UP, Bihar and neighbouring areas at risk of virus spread -

-March: using monovalent oral polio vaccine 3 (mOPV3),
- April: using mOPV1 and May/June: using mOPV3.

In the second half of 2008 − one SNID round in UP, Bihar and neighbouring areas at risk of virus spread using mOPV1 and 2 SNID rounds in UP, Bihar and neighbouring areas at risk of virus spread using mOPV3.

Mop ups should be carried out, in response to any WPV1 or WPV3 outside UP & Bihar and WPV1 in UP or Bihar.

In Bihar special focus and attention should be directed to the high risk clusters of blocks and neighbouring blocks in order to ensure adequate immunisation coverage.

Efforts to reach mobile populations from UP and Bihar living in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Delhi, and Mumbai, should continue. These populations/areas should be covered along with UP and Bihar during planned SNIDs rounds.

All polio-free states should ensure that routine immunization coverage is maintained at the highest possible levels to minimize the risk of wild poliovirus spread should there be a re- introduction.